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**ABSTRACT**

- 5           Peptides and peptidomimetics capable of modulating apoptosis through their  
interaction with cellular IAPs (inhibitor of apoptosis proteins) are disclosed. The  
peptides and mimetics are based on the N-terminal tetrapeptide of IAP-binding  
proteins, such as Smac/DIABLO, Hid, Grim and Reaper, which interact with a  
specific surface groove of IAP. Also disclosed are methods of using these peptides  
10   and peptidomimetics for therapeutic purposes and for rational drug design.

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